

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of optimizing network routing and load distribution in a virtual
2 private network, comprising:
3 obtaining geographical coordinates for a user device;
4 determining an optimal network server for the user device based on the
5 geographical coordinates; and
6 connecting the user device to the virtual private network through the
7 optimal network server.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining
2 comprises the user device automatically selecting the optimal network server based on
3 the geographical coordinates.

1 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining
2 comprises the user device sending the geographical coordinates to an authentication
3 server for selecting the optimal network server based on the geographical coordinates.

1 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the optimal network server is
2 selected based on proximity to the user device.

1 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the optimal network server is
2 selected based on load distribution.

- 1 6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising authenticating the
- 2 user device before allowing it to be connected to the virtual private network.

1 7. A user device capable of automatically connecting to an optimal network
2 server in a virtual private network, comprising:
3 location reporting equipment connected to the user device and configured
4 to provide geographical coordinates for a location of the user device;
5 a central processing unit connected to the location reporting equipment;
6 and
7 a storage unit connected to the central processing unit, the storage unit
8 storing a virtual private network client thereon that is capable of:
9 obtaining geographical coordinates for the user device from the
10 location reporting equipment;
11 determining an optimal network server for the user device based on
12 the geographical coordinates; and
13 connecting the user device to the virtual private network through
14 the optimal network server.

1 8. The user device according to claim 7, wherein the location reporting
2 equipment is a GPS module.

1 9. The user device according to claim 7, wherein the virtual private network
2 client determines the optimal network server by selecting it from a list of network servers
3 based on the geographical coordinates.

1 10. The user device according to claim 7, further comprising a network access
2 device connected to the central processing unit, the network access device capable of
3 establishing a broadband connection between the user device and the virtual private
4 network.

1 11. The user device according to claim 7, further comprising a network access
2 device connected to the central processing unit, the network access device capable of
3 establishing a narrowband connection between the user device and the virtual private
4 network.

1 12. A virtual private network, comprising:
2 a plurality of network servers; and
3 an authentication server connected to the network servers, the
4 authentication server having a virtual private network host executing thereon and
5 configured to:
6 receive geographical coordinates for a user device requesting
7 access to the network servers;
8 determine an optimal network server for the user device based on
9 the geographical coordinates; and
10 send identifying information for the optimal network server to the
11 user device.

1 13. The virtual private network according to claim 12, further comprising a
2 remote access server capable of connecting the user device to the virtual private network
3 and also to the Internet.

1 14. The virtual private network according to claim 12, wherein at least one of
2 the network servers is a tunnel server.